Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT L 00295 161327Z

46
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DRC-01 RSC-01 /021 W
---------- 081408
P R 161210Z APR 74
FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4492
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0295

STADIS//////////////////////////

AF/E FOR COOTE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: MARR OCLR XO MP
SUBJECT: METEROLOGICAL FLIGHTS IN INDIAN OCEAN

1. YOUR LETTERS ON SUBJECT DATED APRIL 3 AND 5 ARRIVED HERE APRIL 15. THOUGHT IT BEST TO REPLY BY CABLE, GIVEN YOUR PRESENT TRAVEL PLANS.

2. IN OCTOBER, EMBASSY HAD, IN FACT, SUBMITTED REQUEST FOR WP-3 LANDING TO OCCUR NOVEMBER 7. HOWEVER, THIS FLIGHT DID NOT TAKE PLACE OWING MID EAST HOSTILITIES.

3. EARLIER, MAURITIAN GOVERNMENT HAD INFORMED US BY NOTE THAT THERE WAS NO OBJECTION TO US NAVY WEATHER RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS MAKING USE OF PLAISANCE AIRPORT (PORT LOUIS 0761, AUG 2, 1973).

4. TO DATE, EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED NO NAVY REQUEST CONCERNING RESUMPTION OF PROGRAM, BUT BELIEVE THAT WHEN/IF RECEIVED, EMBASSY SHOULD GO AHEAD ON ROUTINE BASIS WITH CLEARANCE REQUEST.

5. DO NOT FORESEE THIS CAUSING ANY PROBLEMS WITH GOVERNMENT. BELIEVE THAT GIVEN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, E.G. DIEGO GARCIA SENSITIVITIES, ETC., SUCH REQUESTS MIGHT WELL BE IN ORDER, SO AS TO TEST GOM'S REACTION.
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PAGE 02 PORT L 00295 161327Z

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

6. HAVE ONLY ONE MINOR RESERVATION: WHEN THIS RECONNAISSANCE PROGRAM FIRST ANNOUNCED TO EMBASSY, IT WAS STATED THAT FLIGHTS WOULD MOST LIKELY OCCUR DURING CYCLONE SEASON. THIS SEASON NOW DRAWING TO A CLOSE. HOWEVER, THIS FACT MIGHT NOT BE ALLUDED TO BY GOVERNMENT, SINCE CONTENT OF ITS NOTE AUTHORIZING FLIGHTS CARRIED NO RESTRICTIONS AS TO TIME OF YEAR, BUT ASKED SIMPLY FOR 48-HOUR PRIOR NOTIFICATION.
SULLIVAN

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NNN

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 16 APR 1974
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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